Vol. 73, pp. 99–102 10 August 1960

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

A NEW MARINE CENTIPED FROM THE CALIFORNIA LITTORAL

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Through the courtesy of Prof. J. W. Hedgpeth, director of the Pacific Marine Station, California, I have been able to examine specimens of the new geophilid centiped here described. This new form is of special interest because of its occurrence under stones between the tide levels near Dillon Beach. It represents a new genus in the family Schendylidae to which several forms of known or probable littoral habitats pertain. However, centipeds of such occurrence are not restricted to this family. Thus the most commonly found of all marine centipeds is *Linotaenia maritima* (Leach) of the European coasts and on the coast of Alaska the author has reported the occurrence of *Brachygeophilus admirinus* Chamberlin, near the lower tide mark, these two species belonging respectively to the Linotaeniidae and the Geophilidae.

In the family Schendylidae long known as a marine centiped is *Hydroschendyla submarina* (Grube), found in the littoral of England, Ireland, and the Bermuda Islands, as well as along the continental coast from Sweden to France. A related genus, *Haplophilus,* has in the Mediterranean area a form of known littoral habits, this being *H. dimidiatus angustus* (Latzel). In the western Atlantic another related genus, *Bimindyla,* is represented by a species *B. gertschi* Chamberlin which is suspected to have similar habits. On the American Pacific coast another related genus, *Pectiniunguis,* is represented in the littoral fauna of Mexico and the Galapagos Islands, and the genus *Thindyla,* allied to the preceding, by a species described by the author from Callao, Peru.

The following tabulation will aid in placing the new genus with reference to these and some other related genera of the Schendylidae.

1. Last coxae with 0 or at most 1 or 2 glands or pores 2
   Last coxae with from 4 or 5 to many pores 8
2. Last coxae with no glands or pores 3
   Last coxae with 1 or 2 pores 5
3. Labrum bearing stout teeth over middle portion ..... *Nesonyx* Chamberlin
   Not so, the median part with margin simply undulate or at most crenate 4
4. Labrum deeply incurved or excavated at middle ..... *Haploschendyla* Verhoeff
   Not so, the labral margin gently concave or nearly transverse ..... *Bimindyla* Chamberlin
5. Coxal glands simple or homogeneous 6
   Coxal glands compound or heterogeneous 7
6. Anal legs with a stout claw; middle of labrum with stout teeth ..... *Nyctunguis* Chamberlin
   Anal legs with no claw; labrum deeply incurved at middle, without true teeth ..... *Hydroschendyla* Brol. and Ribaut
7. Labrum without true teeth at middle, at most crenate ..... *Thindyla* Chamberlin
   Labrum with stout teeth at middle, not deeply incurved ..... *Pectiniunguis* Bollman
8. Claw of palpus of second maxillae closely pectinate ..... *Escaryus* Cook
   This claw entirely smooth 9
9. Prehensors small, not attaining front margin of head; femuroid and prosternum without teeth ..... *Lionyx*, gen. nov.
   Prehensors exposed from above, exceeding the head anteriorly; femuroid and prosternum bearing teeth 10
10. Anal legs with a claw; coxal pores small and numerous ..... *Apunguis* Chamberlin
    Anal legs lacking a claw; coxal pores only 4 or 5, larger ..... *Sogolabis* Chamberlin

Lionyx, new genus

In general close in structure to *Escaryus* but differing in having the claw of the second maxillae entirely smooth instead of closely pectinate. In the first maxillae the palpus bears a sensory lappet but none occurs on the basal joint of the maxilla proper. The labrum bearing a series of numerous long spines but no true conical teeth, although the spines are abruptly thicker at where they tend to fuse transversely. No ventral pores detected. Last ventral plate broad, coxal pores typically 5 on each side, the glands simple. Anal legs with a normally developed claw, crassate in the male.

Type species: Lionyx hedgpethi new species

Lionyx hedgpethi, new species

Figs. 1 and 2

Color pale yellow.

Head about three fourths as wide as long, widest a little back of mid-

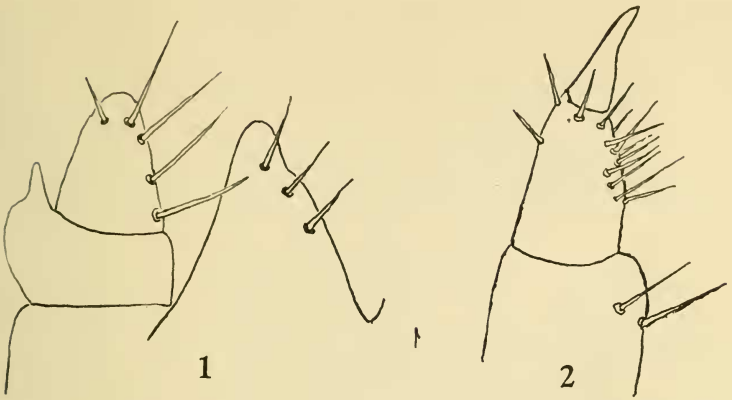

Fig. 1–2

dle; with no frontal suture. Antennae long and filiform. The labrum free, evenly concave, armed with numerous processes which are spiniform and separated above their bases which are contiguous. First maxillae with a stout palpus which bears on its first joint a sensory lappet. (See Fig. 1.) The second maxillae with coxal plate without suture or division at middle; palpus bearing a large claw which is entirely smooth. (See Fig. 2.)

Claws of prehensors when closed failing much of attaining the anterior margin of the head. Femuroid of prehensors unarmed, but the claw with a denticle at base. Prosternum unarmed anteriorly; no sclerotic lines obvious.

The relatively large clypeal area finely and uniformly areolate, with no clear non-areolate areas; setae near lateral borders but none detected in middle portion.

Sternites smooth, sparsely setose. In anterior part the sternites have the anterior margin of each sclerotized into an edge below which a similar edge of the preceding sternite seems to fit when the animal coils.

Last ventral plate or sternite broader than long, narrowed caudad, trapeziform. Coxal pores typically 5 on each side; the two innermost of these pores adjacent to or partly covered by the sternite. Anal legs in the male crassate; claw large and smooth.

Pairs of legs 49.

Length: 20 to 25 mm.

Locality: California, near Dillon Beach, Marin Co.; Nick's Cove, Tomales Bay. Type taken 8 July 1959 by J. W. Hedgpeth and students.

Explanation of Figures

Lionyx hedgpethi new species. Fig. 1.—A first maxilla. Fig. 2.—Distal portion of palpus of second maxilla.